

Message Text

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TAGS:OEXC, UR

SUBJECT:MULTIREGIONAL PROJECT IN THE ARTS

REF: A. MOSCOW 11946; B. STATE 195103

1. IN AUGUST 27 PHONE CALL TO DEPT, SOVEMB CULTCOUNSELOR SAKOVICH SAID HE HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM DEPCULTMIN POPOV SAYING THAT IF BUTROVA NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR MULTIREGIONAL PROJECT IN ADMINISTRATION IN ARTS, NO ONE WOULD BE NOMINATED. SAKOVICH WAS AWARE OF POSSIBILITY OF SECOND INVITATION FOR INDIVIDUAL VISIT BY SOVIET OFFICIAL FOR FAMILIARIZATION WITH ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND REPRESENTATIVE PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS. DEPT ASSUMES SAKOVICH'S CALL WAS RESULT OF EMBASSY APPROACH ALONG LINES REFTTEL A.

2. IN AUGUST 28 TELCON, SAKOVICH PROFESSED TO BE UNAWARE OF MULTI-NATIONAL CHARACTER OF GROUP PROJECT, AND UNDER IMPRES-
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SION THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING PROJECT FOR ONLY SOVIET OFFIC-

IALS. FYI: WHEN WE READ HIM LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH INTENDED TO NOMINATE HE HAD SOME DOUBT BUTROVA WOULD WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN "EXOTIC GROUP OF COUNTRIES" AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT PERHAPS KOKONIN WAS THE BETTER CHOICE. END FYI. WE MADE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD ACCEPT ONLY ONE SOVIET PARTICIPANT FOR MULTIREGIONAL PROJECT AND WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT EITHER BUTROVA OR KOKONIN. WE ALSO OFFERED TO ACCEPT EITHER OF ABOVE ON AN INDIVIDUAL VISIT TAILORED SPECIFICALLY TO MEET HIS OR HER NEEDS. SAKOVICH ASKED WHETHER INDIVIDUAL VISIT COULD BE TIMED WITH GROUP PROJECT TO PERMIT ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES (APPARENTLY IN MISTAKEN UNDERSTANDING THAT GROUP PROJECT IS ORIENTED SPECIFICALLY TOWARD PERFORMING ARTS). WE REITERATED DESIRE TO PROGRAM SECOND SOVIET NOMINEE SEPARATELY. (WE SEE TOO MANY PROBLEMS IN ATTEMPTING TO COORDINATE THE INDIVIDUAL VISIT WITH THE GROUP PROJECT.) SAKOVICH DEPARTING FOR HOME LEAVE AUGUST 29 AND IS LIKELY TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO MINCULT.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, EMBASSY MAY WISH CLARIFY TO MINCULT THAT WE WILLING ACCEPT EITHER BUTROVA OR KOKONIN FOR MULTIREGIONAL PROJECT, BUT NOT BOTH; AND THAT WE WILLING PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL GRANT FOR SEPARATE VISIT BY WHICHEVER OF THE TWO DOES NOT ATTEND THE MULTIREGIONAL PROJECT. INGERSOLL

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